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Kington Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1946

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
(Private Tel.: Leominster 323)

(Returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946)

Acting Medical Officer of Health ... I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin.),
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Relinquished duty on the 31st August, 1946)

Clerk B. J. SCANDRETT
(On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector (Part-time) ... R. P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1946.

I returned to duty on the 1st September, 1946. This report deals largely, therefore, with the work of Dr. Mackenzie and the other members of the Public Health Staff. May I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Dr. Mackenzie, who in addition to his own duties as a deputy County Medical Officer of Health, has so ably carried on the duties of Medical Officer of Health during my absence on war service. Great credit is due to your Sanitary Inspector for the way in which he has kept the sanitary services functioning during the difficult war years.

A period of reconstruction is now upon us. Before the war a start had been made in improving the housing conditions in the district. Progress ceased when war broke out, and now the pre-war problem, plus the dilapidations of the war years face us. The problem is therefore far greater than before the war and is further increased by the large number of young families living in the town with their parents.

Housing construction is therefore a most urgent necessity, to be pressed forward as circumstances permit.

H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	857
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to the Rate Books	547
Rateable Value	£9,010
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£35 8 4

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	16.6
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still Birth)	29.4
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	14.1
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	60.6
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths during 1946 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1946:

LIVE BIRTH RATE	19.1
DEATH RATE	11.5
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	43.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district.

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays, at 2 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County schemes also provide for Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER: SAMPLING.

The water supply is obtained from a Spring at the Crooked Well. It comes direct from rock and is conveyed by pipe to the Pumping Station and then pumped to Reservoirs at the top of the Town. The supply has, throughout the year, been more than sufficient for the needs of the community.

Routine sampling has been carried out.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new drains or sewers were constructed during the period under review.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The effluent from the sewage works (which is discharged into a brook flowing to the River Arrow) has improved still further during the year as a result of the alterations carried out on the filter beds. The electric sewage pump and the sludge draining bed are now in operation.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This takes the form of incineration which is carried out in a building on the Sewage Disposal site. The ashes are cleared occasionally for filling in where road work is in progress.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Inspection of the area is regularly made and defects noted. Owners of the property are approached and in most cases there is little difficulty in having the necessary work carried out.

Defective Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drain Traps renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water taps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	26

Defects of roofs and buildings have received such attentions as was possible. It has to be borne in mind that extensive work is not possible on account of shortage of labour.

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES.

The factories situated within the area have been inspected on 86 occasions. Only two minor defects were noted.

CAMPING SITES.

Camping does not exist on a large scale. No sites are registered.

BED BUGS.

Six cases were reported during the year. Disinfestation was carried out on the premises with satisfactory results, except in one case where there is a recurrence periodically. It is a very old house with poor walls.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects							
under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably							
fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections are carried out. The general standard of cleanliness is good.

FOODS SURRENDERED.

The undermentioned foods were surrendered during the year:

Vegetables	...	...	...	312 lbs.	Luncheon Meat	...	...	48	tins
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	284 lbs.	Condensed Milk	...	...	115	tins
Margarine	...	...	...	10 lbs.	Preserves	...	...	65	tins
Cheese	...	...	...	28 lbs.	Fish	...	...	52	tins
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	224 lbs.	Fresh and Dried Fish	...	...	1	cwt.
Mutton	...	...	...	Nil	Potatoes	...	...	8½	cwt.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

All food found to be unfit for human or animal consumption is taken to the Destructor and burnt.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The year 1946 was remarkable for the few cases of infectious disease occurring in the district. No cases of Diphtheria occurred.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

[illegible]

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1946 is indicated in the table below.

	Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total Under 15
	Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	Number
Locals	101	68.7%	334	126.5%	435
Evacuees (all ages)	—	—	—	—	90

Since practically all evacuees had returned to their homes by the end of 1946, it was felt desirable to sub-divide the groups of children immunised into "locals" and evacuees. All the records have therefore been rechecked. The figures given this year are not strictly comparable to those given in the Annual Reports of 1945 and 1944. A large though unknown number of persons migrated to Kingston during the war, outside the evacuation scheme and endeavoured to set up as part of the local population. It was in fact impossible to make a true distribution in our records during the years 1940-1943 and therefore we find the extraordinary statement that 126.5 per cent. of the population between the ages of 5 and 15 have been immunised against diphtheria. The figure for the age group 0-4 years is of course much more accurate.

The figures given below indicate a very reasonably sustained interest in immunisation with only a relatively small falling off of interest in the years 1944-1946.

"LOCAL" CHILDREN aged 0-4 years.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Number immunised during year	—	96	3	58	41	20	39	28
Number immunised at any time	—	96	70	106	120	101	110	101

"Immunised" indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

The immunisation scheme was started in 1940. With the present amount of co-operation, immunisation of children against diphtheria should soon become a social habit—that the children are immunised just as they are fed, washed and kept clean.

On 31st July, 1946, the general practitioners scheme came into force, by which those children who could not make use of the Council's scheme could obtain free immunisation from their own Doctor. The scheme has worked smoothly.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1946, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and ten females who normally reside in the Council's area.

During the year, four new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period, two deaths of persons suffering from the disease occurred, one person left the district and another recovered from the disease.

CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

Disease				Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	—	4	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	...	...	...	2	5	7
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other	...	...	...	...	...	...
Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	1	3
Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	1	2	3
Premature Birth and Congenital	...	...	...	...	...	...
conditions at birth	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other causes	...	...	...	1	1	2

